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# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Obama moves to choke Iran oil exports

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama gave the go-ahead for fresh sanctions against Iran's oil sector Friday, judging there is enough oil on world markets to ensure the move will not hit US consumers.

Obama determined the United States could levy sanctions against banks and other financial institutions buying oil from Iran, without roiling markets.

The step is expected to have major implications for

Tehran, essentially forcing companies around the world to choose between trade with the United States and buying Iranian oil.

China, South Korea, India, France, Britain, Spain, Greece and Italy have all been major buyers of Iranian oil in the past.

The sanctions are part of a broader effort by Western governments to push Iran toward abandoning programs that could be aimed at producing nuclear weapons, to stop support for proscribed groups and to end human rights abuses.

In a presidential statement, Obama said: "There is a sufficient supply of petroleum and petroleum products from countries other than Iran to permit a significant reduction in the volume of petroleum and petroleum products purchased from Iran by or through foreign financial institutions."

Oil prices in New York rose slightly on the news, increasing around a dollar a barrel for the benchmark futures contract, to reach \$104 a barrel.

## "The Reality of Substance Abuse-You Decide!" FADA launches an anti-abuse campaign aimed at youth



"The Reality of Substance Abuse-You Decide!" (E Realidad di Droga y Alcohol DiCiDi!) is the message of a new campaign launched by the Fundacion Anti-Droga Aruba, FADA, on Thursday afternoon, March 29, at the Renaissance Market Place in Oranjestad.

FADA Director Zvendel Sprock welcomed Aruba's Minister of Public Health, Sports and Drugs, Dr. Richard Visser, who affirmed the importance of such a program, specifically targeting youth who are at an experimental and easily influenced age, with the intention of stopping substance abuse before it takes hold.

"Easter school break is approaching," explained Project Manager Cecil York, "which is a time when many island families go camping, and teenagers are hanging out at the beach with their friends; this is when they particularly susceptible to trying things they should stay away from."

Last year, FADA volunteers made the rounds of the



**Island Youth performing in commercials**

various campgrounds, distributing information and talking to youth; they were gratified by the reception and response they received. This year, they decided to get an early start with 2 new TV commercials, articles in various publications, 2 15-second radio spots, and 14 new pamphlets that inform on many forms of addiction: illegal and legal substances, such as tobacco and alcohol, as well as gambling and video games. The TV and radio spots will regularly be aired for the next six months.

"The title of the campaign reveals our strategy of imparting only the facts," he continued. "We show them the proven results and advise

so they realize they don't have to give in to peer pressure or think about impressing friends, it is their lives and their decision. If they make poor decisions they will suffer for it."

FADA officials expressed their gratitude to Janiro Eisdien, The Aruba Chapter of the International Red Cross, and Freddy Tromp of Popcorn Dancers for their support of the project, as well as presenting certificates of participation for the twenty island teenagers who volunteered to perform in the TV and radio spots produced by Brand It! PR & Marketing firm and 297 Cinematography & Media Production.

**By Rosalie Klein**



**Today: 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**  
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## DIMAS announces payment changes and new requirements

The DIMAS Bureau here is informing the general public that changes have been made in the payment format for legal charges and in the tariffs for residence permits. They are also reporting that a new list of requirements have been issued.

Back in 2007 DIMAS introduced an advance payment via the Tax Office (SIAD) for a majority of their services. This meant that anyone who applied for a temporary residence permit at DIMAS was required to first pay the stipulated legal tariff for the service and the permit at the Tax Office.

Only for the so-called "first permit request or the first petition to DIMAS" is there no change in the legal charges nor in the monetary deposit, until after the preliminary petition has been approved. After an internal evaluation, a final decision was taken to introduce the advance payment procedure this year for all of their services. They also revised the list of requirements.

In the event a permit for residency is denied by DIMAS, the client will receive together with the negative notification an official document to be reimbursed all the advanced legal

charges paid. For first time requests, the client will receive the very same restitution of monies paid as a deposit. Restitutions can be collected at the Department of Finance at their new facilities at Camacuri.

All information and changes can be obtained online at [www.dimasaruba.com](http://www.dimasaruba.com) or by visiting their offices personally at DIMAS.

## Dutch Second House of Chamber petitions Aruba government

Recently, the Dutch Second House of Chamber regarding Dutch Relations wanted to know in what way the Dutch government was assisting Aruba with respect to the impending or imminent closure of the Valero Refinery and Aruba's attempts to avoid this.

The Dutch government received a petition from Bas Jan van Brochove (CDA) to inform the Second House of Chamber whether the Aruba government had submitted a petition for Holland's assistance, or if in the meantime the Dutch government had offered their assistance to Aruba.

DIMAS has indicated that the previous (old) list of requirements will remain effective up to the end of April 2012 as a transitional period. Always remember that DIMAS has the authority to, at anytime, considering any particular case, request more documentation from a client in the event this is needed for their decision making process.

According to Bas Jan van Brochove, "this information will enable us to evaluate how the cooperation is developing and we can then determine if and what other steps would be necessary to take."

Ineke van Gent (member of the GroenLinks party) proposed a motion to expand on the question that was raised by van Brochove. She said that she had spoken to the Aruba Prime Minister that week, and that according to him, his cabinet was researching employment alternatives in the event the refinery decides on a definite shut down. Van Gent stated, "...I want to know if Holland can help with such a matter. Many times in such situations the anticipation is much too late. It should not be that very soon Aruba will be faced with the situation of having to swallow everything that Valero dishes out in order to keep the refinery open." The commission decided to direct their petition to the government because this is a question that touches more than just one Minister, according to our Dutch officials.

## From today on, InselAir will be selling entree tickets to the famous Soul Beach Festival



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 +  + 

**SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL | ARUBA | 2012**  
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Starting today, March 31, InselAir will be selling entree tickets to the famous Soul Beach Festival.

Artists such as R. Kelly, LL Cool J (featuring DJ Z-Trip), Melanie Fiona and Ledisi are lined up to star at the Soul Beach Festival 2012 at the Aruba Nikki Beach Amphitheater. After parties at the Nikki Beach Club will follow each concert night. A Comedy Night on May 25th precedes the concert nights on May 26th and 27th.

InselAir will be the only airline selling SoulBeach Festival entree tickets in the Pan-American region. Jurgen

Lippinkhof commented, "We added even more seat capacity to our average capacity of 400+ seats per day between Curacao and Aruba, just to be sure to be able to connect everybody to the festival. With 7 daily flights between the islands it is easy to connect from any InselAir destination via Curacao to Aruba".

The airline advises everybody who is interested to purchase their entree ticket and InselAir ticket as soon as possible, Lippinkhof adds, "Seats are already filling up and with such a great line-up the entree tickets are bound to sell out quickly."



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## Busy days ahead for Aruba's Airport



**EASTER PERIOD 2012**  
 Once again the Easter period has arrived. Starting Friday March 31, 2012 through Sunday April 8, 2012 we will be expecting several charter flights from mostly Caracas and Maracaibo, Venezuela.

The airlines that are providing the most charters or extra flights are Estelar and Venezolana (approximately 20 flights each) followed by Laser, Tiara, Avior and Perla Airlines. In total we have approximately 70 charters or

extra flights during this period. Even though this is a little less flights than what we had last year, the amount of seats are considerably more than last year. When we also consider that last year Laser flew only with ad hoc flights in this period and this year it is operating as a regular charter operator to Aruba, we could calculate an increase of the available seats at approximately 20% compared to last year.

During this period we will also have an increase of the amount of private flights. We cannot predict if there will be an increase compared to last year because they usually do not plan ahead.

From experience the most challenging days of operation

will be Saturday April 7, 2012 and Sunday April 8 when most passengers will be departing. The airport however is planning to cope with the amount of traffic by coordinating with all instances to be prepared and to have enough man power available. Concerning the private flights however there is a limited amount of parking space available and we may have to stop incoming private flights when we are full. This is why we are in the process of expanding the available parking space for private aircraft on our airport.

The Aruba Airport Authority N.V. wishes to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and safe Easter Period.

### Department of External Affairs to issue all Visas for travel to Aruba

The DIMAS Bureau has made public that as of next month, April 2012, all matters related to visas for travel to Aruba will be handled by the Dutch Kingdom Embassys and will be channeled through the Aruba Department of External Affairs.

The Department of External Affairs is located at the J. Irausquiplein 2A and uses the L.G. Smith Blvd. 76 address. Telephone and fax numbers of the Department are: 583-4705, 583-4660. The email address is: [info@arubaforeignaffairs.com](mailto:info@arubaforeignaffairs.com) and their website is: [www.arubaforeignaffairs.com](http://www.arubaforeignaffairs.com).

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## Happy Birthday Jayden!



Arubans believe in making birthdays special for their children, it is a tradition, especially during the younger years. Jayden Camacho happens to be very fortunate in having a mom who is general manager of Paseo Herencia Mall in Palm Beach, a heavenly playground for little ones, particularly at birthday time.

Jayden and his brother Kyan were hosts for 10 family members and friends, as mom Valerie treated them all to the movies to see "The Lorex" at The Cinemas, and a session with the Dino Jump in the courtyard to work off some of their youthful energy before indulging in dinner at TGI Friday's. The evening finished off with

them enjoying the fantastical Ritmo Cubano show taking place every Thursday in the Plaza Padu.

It was a full night of fun for all those fortunate to be friends and family with the now six-year-old Jayden, who couldn't imagine a better celebration-or mom!

### Queen Elizabeth a great-grandmother again

LONDON (AFP) - Queen Elizabeth II has become a great-grandmother for the second time, Buckingham Palace announced Friday.

Isla Elizabeth Phillips was born Thursday at the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital in Gloucester, southwest England, weighing seven pounds and four ounces (3.29 kilograms).

She is the second child of Peter Phillips, 34, and his 33-

year-old Canadian-born wife Autumn, following the birth of Savannah Phillips in December 2010.

Phillips is Queen Elizabeth's oldest grandchild and the son of her only daughter, Princess Anne, the Princess Royal.

Anne, 61, decided that her children would not bear royal titles and her son keeps a low profile, carrying out no royal duties.

## Give some elderly a happy day and support with Foundation Thuiszorg Aruba this Saturday

Foundation Thuiszorg Aruba, a residence for the elderly located at Paradera 89, announced they are conducting an open house this coming Saturday, March 31, in conjunction with the drawing of their fundraising raffle, when the will announce the winner of a brand new car, a Kia Picanto. The drawing will take place at 6:00 PM.

Founded in 2002 by Rufina Tromp-Ras, a former worker with the White-Yellow Cross, who is its director, the foundation fills a need as the four nursing homes maintained by SABA are full. Rufina, during her rounds caring for the elderly as part of the White-Yellow Cross observed the need for an additional facility dedicated to care for the elderly, with many left alone at home, as their children had to work.

Foundation Thuiszorg Aruba has 27 residents and 8



visiting patients who come daily for day care. 4 of the residents are subsidized by government funds, but the majority are maintained through donations and fundraising events.

The community is invited to come this Saturday to meet the residents, enjoy treats and refreshments for sale and purchase raffle tickets to win a new car, to assist the foundation in continuing their important work. Tickets are only 5 Aruban florins, and sold in books of 100, 250 and 500. Businesses interested in purchasing a book and placing it at their premises can call 588-7400, or individuals wishing to take a chance of winning a brand new car, or help the foundation with donations.

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## At Rococo Plaza Fleamarket Day Opening Feria di Fruta y Berdura Aruba is this Sunday!



This Sunday April 1st (this is not a April Fool's Day joke) is the opening of Feria di Fruta y Berdura Aruba at Rococo Plaza Tanki Leendert rd 4A, during the monthly Fleamarket Day - yard sale.

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## S.Korea bars under-18s from Lady Gaga concert

SOUTH KOREA -- South Koreans aged under 18 have been banned from attending an upcoming concert by US pop diva Lady Gaga after it was rated unsuitable for younger audiences, according to organisers.

Lady Gaga will begin her third concert tour, "The Born This Way Ball", on April 27 at the Olympic Stadium in Seoul.

The show had an initial age rating of 12 and older but the Korea Media Rating Board, a state watchdog, has adjusted it upwards, said event organiser Hyundai Card.

"Our company will respect the board's decision and refund all ticketholders younger than 18," a Hyundai Card official told AFP, declining to be named.

Some religious groups in South Korea have opposed the concert, saying Lady Gaga has advocated homosexuality and performed in an explicitly sexual manner.

"Our Christian community needs concerted action to stop young people from being infected with homosexuality and pornography," the Korean Association of Church Communication said

in a statement.

Lady Gaga is expected to do 110 shows this year following on the success of her

smash hit "Born This Way".

The eccentric star, who has a record number of almost 22 million followers on

Twitter, will kick off her world tour in Seoul.

From there she will take her pop hits and extravagant

costumes to Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, New Zealand and Australia, where she will stage six shows.

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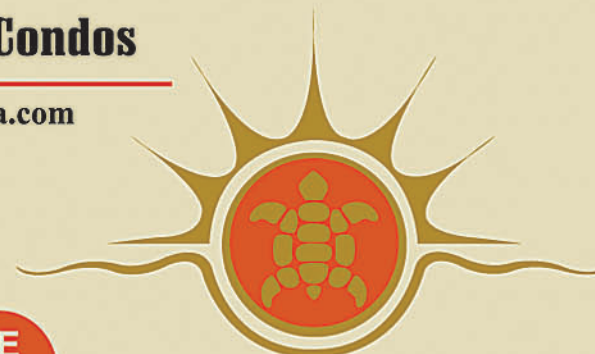
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### Google plans low-price tablet computer

Google is teaming with Asia-based hardware makers on a low-priced, 7-inch tablet computer to challenge offerings by Amazon.com and Apple, reports said.

Android software backed by the California Internet giant will power hardware built by partners including Samsung and Asustek.

An Asustek tablet could be released as early as May with a price of \$199 to make it an option for shoppers considering the Kindle Fire made by Amazon.com, said Digitimes.

Google putting its weight behind an economical tablet would likely put pressure on other gadget makers to lower prices. Google did not respond immediately to an AFP request for comment.



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## International News

### Argentina's Menem to be tried for obstruction

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Former Argentine president Carlos Menem was ordered Friday to stand trial for obstruction of justice in a probe of the 1994 bombing of a building housing Jewish charities that killed 85 people.

Justice officials said Judge Ariel Lijo ordered the trial for Menem, president 1989-1999, and former judge Juan Jose Galeano, who was in charge of the investigation for 10 years but was dismissed from the case in 2004.

Some 300 people were wounded in the attack that leveled the seven-floor Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA) building in Buenos Aires. No one has ever been

convicted in the bombing.

Menem, 81, was initially charged in 2009 with concealing and tampering with evidence and abusing authority to cover up what was then called a "Syrian connection."

Argentine prosecutors allege that Tehran planned and financed the car bombing, which was carried out by a cell from the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

Prosecutors now say there is evidence that Argentine state intelligence services and security forces covered up and erased tracks for local accomplices of the attackers during the Menem administration.

Officials previously said Menem, who was born in Ar-

gentina to Syrian immigrants, and his former staff stole evidence to hide the involvement of Syrian-Argentine businessman Alberto Kanoore Edul in the bombing, and destroyed evidence that would have incriminated him. Kanoore Edul, whose family was friendly with Menem, died in 2010.

The bombing was the worst attack of its kind in Argentina, which has the largest Jewish community in the Americas outside the United States.

Menem is currently serving in Argentina's senate. This does not give him immunity from testifying in court, but if he is found guilty, his fellow senators would have to impeach him first to serve any sentence.

### 'Cuban Five' spy convicted in US visits Cuba



HAVANA (AFP) - Cuban agent Rene Gonzalez, who is on probation in the United States after serving a 13 year prison sentence for espionage, arrived in Cuba on Friday for a two-week visit to see an ailing brother, state television reported.

Gonzalez, described on the news as a "hero of the Cuban republic," arrived slightly after noon (1700 GMT) "on a private and family visit."

On March 19 US Judge Joan Lenard in Miami allowed Gonzalez two weeks to travel to Cuba. The US Justice Department argued against the visit, claiming that Gonzalez could get new spying instructions if he met with intelligence officials there.

Gonzalez was arrested in 1998 along with the other members of the Cuba Five: Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labanino, Antonio Guerrero and Fernando Gonzalez.

The men were found guilty in 2001 of trying to infiltrate US military installations in South Florida and were given

long prison terms, ranging from 15 years to life.

Cuba has acknowledged that the five were intelligence agents, but says the men simply aimed to gather information on "terrorist" plots by Cuban expatriates in Florida - not to spy on the US government.

State media said that "in the motion presented by his attorney, Rene expressed that he would meet the terms established by the visit and return to the United States."

The unexpected travel permit was granted just days after the attorney for US contractor Alan Gross, sentenced in 2011 to 15 years prison in Cuba on charges of violating Cuba's "independence or territorial integrity," asked President Raul Castro for a similar travel permit to visit his 90 year-old mother ill with cancer.

The Cuban government has not responded to the request.

Washington has rejected a possible swap of Gross, 63, for the Cuban agents.

### Thousands turn out for gay Chilean's funeral



"There will be time for justice but for now, I am only asking for respect, and I thank all of you for each gesture, each tear shed for my brother," Diego Zamudio said before a private cremation.

His brother Daniel, 24, was beaten on March 3 during a six-hour ordeal. Pictures released by his family show the attackers beat the openly gay man in the head, burned him with cigarettes and carved Nazi symbols and slogans on his body. He died from his injuries Tuesday, 25 days later.

The four suspects who have been arrested in the case are thought to belong to a neo-Nazi group. Aged 19 to 25, the defendants deny allegations of attacking Zamudio and of being neo-Nazis.

Chile is reeling from the attack as the taboo over homosexuality gradually dissipates in the highly Catholic and conservative country.

Last year, President Sebastian Pinera proposed a family bill that would allow civil unions for homosexual couples, but lawmakers have yet to vote on it.

Zamudio's death has, however, renewed calls for more ambitious legislation, including a nondiscrimination law proposed in Congress seven years ago.

The law would penalize anyone who discriminates against other people based on their race, sexual orientation or religious denomination.

Chile's Senate approved the bill in November but it awaits action in the House of Representatives, where right-wing lawmakers have expressed concern it is a first step toward same-sex marriage, which is banned in the proposed legislation.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has urged Chile to create a law to more easily punish hate crimes based on sexual discrimination.

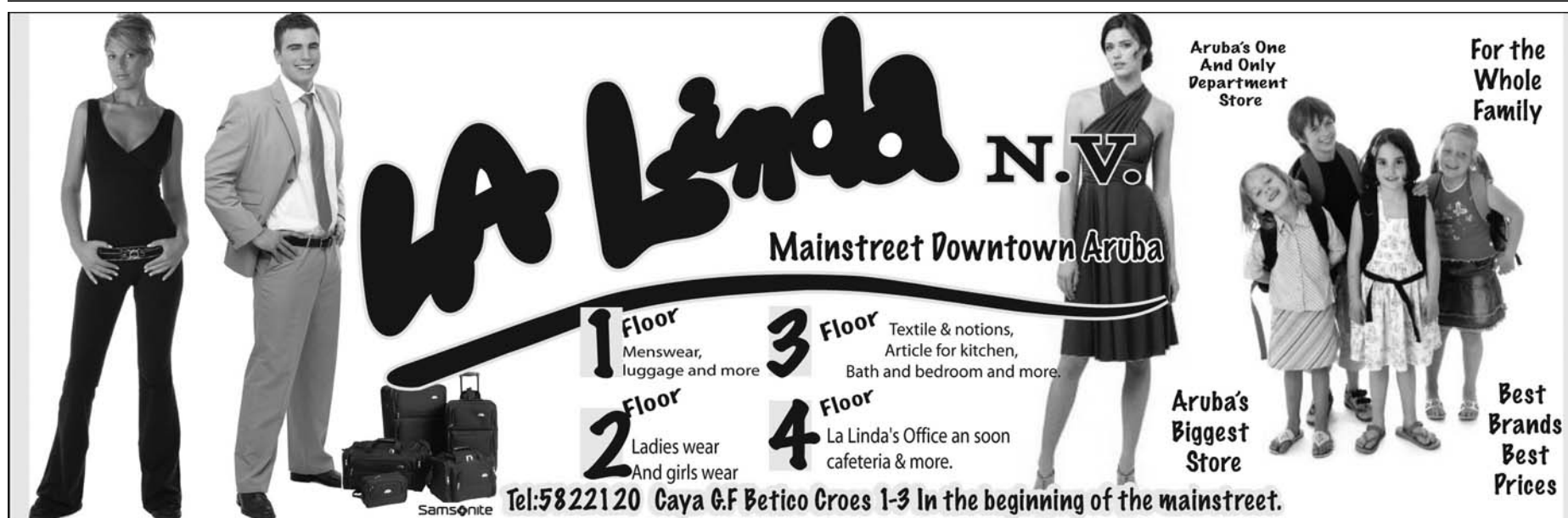
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## International News

### Japan approves shoot-down plan for N. Korean rocket

TOKYO (AFP) - Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's cabinet Friday gave the green light to shoot down a North Korean rocket if it threatens Japan's territory, as the planned launch raises global alarm bells.

Pyongyang has said it will fire a rocket to put a satellite into orbit between April 12 and 16 to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of founding president Kim Il-Sung, saying the launch was for peaceful purposes.

But the United States and its allies suspect it is a disguised missile test, and say the launch would contravene UN sanctions aimed at curbing North Korea's missile programme.

"(The cabinet) at a security meeting this morning confirmed the policy to issue a destroy order," an official in the prime minister's office told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The order gave Defence Minister Naoki Tanaka the power to have the projectile shot down, as Japan grows increasingly worried that the rocket may pass over -- or fall into -- its territory.

Last week, Tanaka said he was readying Japan's missile defence systems to destroy the rocket if necessary.

The defence chief reiterated that surface-to-air interceptors would be deployed on the southern island chain of Okinawa, below the rocket's forecast flight path, and in central Tokyo, one of the world's biggest cities.

Aegis destroyers equipped with missile defence systems will also be deployed in waters near Okinawa and in the Sea of Japan, he said.

In 2009, Japan ordered missile defence preparations before Pyongyang's last long-range rocket launch which brought UN Security

Council condemnation and tightened sanctions against the isolated communist state.

That rocket, which North Korea also said was aimed at putting a satellite into orbit, passed over Japanese territory without incident or any attempt to shoot it down.

North Korea also test-fired two short-range missiles off its west coast this week, South Korean media reported Friday.

Hiroyasu Akutsu, professor at the National Institute for Defence Studies (NIDS), said North Korea is "confident that China will ultimately support them if they launch the satellite" despite the international pressure.

In a study published Friday, NIDS warned improvements in nuclear technology, coupled with the change in leadership that has seen the untested Kim Jong-Un take control in Pyongyang, has increased the risk of a conflict engulfing the region.

### Actress icon of Syrian revolt warns of sectarian warfare



PARIS (AFP) - Fadwa Suleiman, an actress who became an icon of Syria's revolution, is furious that her country's peaceful protest movement has been drawn into armed conflict with the regime.

She said she is saddened to

see that "the revolution is not going in the right direction, that it is becoming armed, that the opposition which wanted to resist peacefully is playing the game of the regime and that the country is heading for sectarian war".

Her bitter assessment comes as she sits in a cafe in Paris, where she fled to last week after escaping from Syria.

Suleiman became a high-profile member of the opposition movement last November when she appeared in footage from the rebel city of Homs that was broadcast on the Al-Jazeera television news network.

The 39-year-old actress, well known in her homeland for her work in theatre, films and television, belongs to the same Alawite religious minority as President Bashar al-Assad.

She says that a major reason for her participation in the protests was to do her bit to stop any slide into a sectarian war between factions of the Sunni Muslim majority, Alawites or Christians.

And that is why she is furious that those "who are arming the Syrian street are willing to do anything to take power in the same way that Bashar Al-A Assad is ready to do anything to stay in power."

### Mexico opposition eyes return as campaign opens

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexico officially launches its general election campaign Friday, with the main opposition party favored to regain the power it lost in 2000 after 71 years of rule.

President Felipe Calderon, of the conservative National Action Party (PAN), is not eligible for a second term but his war on drug traffickers launched after he took office in December 2006 will be at the center of the debate.

With over 50,000 people killed and mounting violence, PAN candidate Josefina Vazquez Mota, 51, will have to overcome deep public skepticism that the brutal offensive has dented the influence and wealth of drug cartels.

A Reforma poll, the last published before the start of campaigning, confirmed the significant lead of Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) candidate Enrique Pena Nieto, a 45-year-old lawyer and the opposition's standard-bearer.

The telegenic former Mexico state governor had 45 percent support ahead of the July 1 vote, followed by Vazquez Mota's 31 percent and 22 percent for leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, 59, of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD).

Although he is not a candidate, Calderon has been defending his war on drug

cartels.

The outgoing president attributed the violence plaguing Mexico to the negligence of his predecessors, especially PRI leaders, as drug traffickers made advances.

The PRI meanwhile accuses the government of having fueled the violence by launching the military against the cartels.

Despite its controversy, no candidate can propose to completely overturn Calderon's war on drugs strategy and expect to get elected, said political scientist Javier Oliva of the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Washington has backed Calderon's strategy and US vice president Joe Biden, who met the three presidential candidates, said they all had vowed to maintain Mexico's commitment to fight the drug cartels.

But Lopez Obrador, who lost narrowly in 2006, said he would gradually remove national security duties for the army and overhaul the national police.

The government is spending millions on security for candidates, and Interior Minister Alejandro Poire said this week that all complaints would be investigated carefully after claims from the left that its candidates have been threatened by drug gangs.



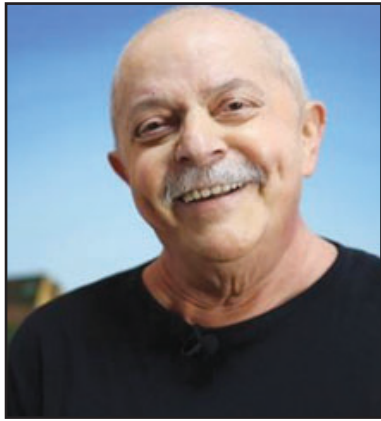
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## Health & Living

### Lula feared losing voice more than dying from cancer



SAO PAULO (AFP) - Former Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said in an interview published Friday that he feared losing his voice more than dying when he was diagnosed with larynx cancer.

"I was more concerned about losing my voice than about dying. Losing my voice would mean death," the popular ex-president, whose cancer is "in complete remission" according to his doctors, told the daily Folha de Sao Paulo.

"But fear, fear, I live with fear," he said. "I am a coward. I want to be alive," added the 66-year-old statesman who announced Wednesday that he

planned to return to political life to help improve the lives of millions of Brazilians.

The ex-president, who lost nearly 16 kilograms (35 pounds) since his cancer was diagnosed in October, compared the chemotherapy and radiation therapy he underwent to the "Hiroshima bomb" and said that at times he would have preferred "to go into a coma."

Lula said his biggest wish was to help his successor and protégé, President Dilma Rousseff. He refused to say whether he planned to run for another presidential term in 2014.

The former metal worker and labor leader refused to confirm or deny press reports that he met at least three times in Sao Paulo with self-described medium and spiritual healer Joao Teixeira de Faria, better known as "John of God."

"Various people came here and there are many people looking for me. And I will receive, talk to all those who look for me because I believe this helps," he said.

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-Drinking milk may help **gain muscle and lose fat** when exercising.

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### Dutch, Belgians mark decade of 'mercy killings'

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Ten years after they became the first countries to legalise euthanasia, the Netherlands and Belgium now provide assisted suicide to 4,000 people a year.

Most have been cancer sufferers but there are now also some with Alzheimer's disease, following a new interpretation of the law.

Since euthanasia became legal in the Netherlands in April 2002, "the statute has remained unchanged, but what has changed is the way doctors interpret it," said Inge Freriksen, spokeswoman for the Dutch health ministry.

Mercy killing by lethal injection is allowed in the Netherlands for patients who are fully mentally alert but whose suffering has become "unbearable and unending" due to incurable disease.

About a third of all the requests deemed to be "serious" are honoured by doctors, the ministry said.

"The concept of 'unbearable suffering' has become much clearer" over the years, said Eric van Wijlick, policy maker at the Royal Dutch Society of Doctors (KNMG).

Euthanasia was provided to an Alzheimer's patient for the first time last year, something which "would have

been unimaginable in 2002," said Walburg de Jong of the pro-mercy killing group Right-to-Die NL.

The overwhelming majority of the 3,136 patients who were euthanised in the Netherlands in 2010 suffered from terminal cancer, about 80 percent choosing to die at home.

Six roving medical teams - each with a doctor and a nurse -- were recently set up to assist people to die at home when their own local doctors refused to give them lethal injections.

Their intervention has already been requested 100 times since the teams were set up in March, De Jong said.

But this has raised questions in the Dutch medical association.

Euthanasia has become the central point of conversation between a doctor and a patient who is suffering when it should be seen as a "last resort", Wijlick said.

"For those people who expressed the wish to die, death is not always the best solution," he added.

Belgium followed the Dutch example later in 2002 with a law legalising euthanasia after a long debate between Christian and secular parties.

There were 1,133 mercy killings in Belgium in 2011, representing 1.0 percent of deaths in the country, its Commission for the Evaluation and Control of Euthanasia reported, adding that numbers were growing.

The vast majority -- 81 percent -- of Belgians who choose to die by assisted suicide are Flemish, because of their cultural proximity to the Dutch.

"The (euthanasia) law has been positive, as it has made huge changes in patient-doctor relationships," said Jacqueline Herremans, president of Belgium's Association for the Right to Die with Dignity (ADME).

"Many taboos on the end-of-life have been lifted," she said.

"It allows families to better prepare for it and accept the deaths of their loved ones. They can put in place the rituals, like good-byes and a last meal..." she said.

While most countries forbid mercy killing, the issue is often not clear cut as some allow "passive" euthanasia, when the medical profession is not required to fight to save a patient, or others where patients can refuse medical care.





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## BlackBerry maker RIM posts major loss

ONTARIO (AFP) - maker Research In Motion posted a quarterly loss -- disappointing first results for the firm's new chief executive, who moved to shake up the struggling company's top ranks.

The Waterloo, Ontario-based firm, on Thursday reported a net loss of \$125 million for its fiscal fourth quarter to March 3, compared with a profit of \$418 million a year earlier.

That dragged down the full fiscal 2012 profit to \$1.16 billion, down sharply from \$3.4 billion a year earlier as RIM battled against Apple's iPhones and iPads and an onslaught of Android-powered devices.

RIM also said Jim Balsillie, a co-founder and co-chief executive until his resignation in January, would step down from the board, completing his retirement from the company.

In addition to the Balsillie departure, RIM said David Yach will be retiring from his role as chief technology officer and Jim Rowan, chief operating officer for global operations, "has decided to pursue other interests."

The results provided a rocky start for chief operating officer Thorsten Heins, who was named president and CEO after the resignation of Balsillie and co-CEO Mike Lazaridis following months of investor pressure for a change.

Later, in a conference call with analysts, Heins did not rule out a sale of the company, saying he would be open to hearing purchase offers, and said the group would undertake a "comprehensive review of strategic opportunities."

Share prices have fallen 80 percent since little more than a year ago, putting market capitalization at about \$7 billion -- meaning the company is particularly vulnerable.

Shares were down in after-hours trading.

During the past quarter, RIM shipped some 11.1 million BlackBerry smartphones -- down 21 percent from the

previous quarter -- and over 500,000 BlackBerry PlayBook tablets.

Analysts had expected shipments of 11.4 million BlackBerry devices.

Revenues for the period of \$4.2 billion were down 25 percent from a year ago and below market expectations.

Heins, who joined RIM from German industrial giant Siemens in 2007 and served as senior vice president for hardware engineering and later as chief operating officer, said he was "excited about the prospects for the BlackBerry 10 platform, which is on track for the latter part of calendar 2012."

The company has suffered from the costly delay in launching BlackBerry 10, which will use the new QNX operating system, and the commercial failure of the PlayBook.



**A honey bee approaches the blossom of a poppy flower. A commonly used type of pesticide may be wielding hefty damage to honey bees and bumble bees, said a pair of European studies published Thursday, urging a hunt for safer alternatives.**  
AFP Photo

## Sci-Tech

# Concerns grow over children using tablet computers



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Electronic tablets like the iPad are a revolutionary educational tool and are becoming part of childhood, but should be watched carefully so that overuse doesn't lead to learning or behavioral problems, experts say.

"It's a topic that really emerged in the last two years. You can't pull it from their hands," Warren Buckleitner, editor of Children's Technology Review, said this week at a New York panel titled "Baby Brains and Video Games."

According to a late 2011 survey of 2,200 parents and children in Britain and the United States, 15 percent of kids between three and eight had used their parents' iPad. Nine percent had their own iPad, while 20 percent had

their own iPod.

The same study, by the marketing agency Kids Industries, found 77 percent of parents believed that using tablets was beneficial for their children and the same number thought the gadgets helped develop creativity.

Amid warnings from some researchers that tablets can cause developmental difficulties and problems including autism or attention deficit disorder, experts at the forum recommended not rushing to judgment.

"Technology maybe fosters some things and dampens others," Rosemarie Truglio, from the children's TV producers Sesame Workshop, said. "It's definitely about balance."

Lisa Guernsey, director of the Early Education Initiative

at the New American Foundation, said that critics blaming devices like the iPad for child developmental problems should differentiate "between a cause and an association."

Still, Guernsey, author of "Screen Time: How Electronic Media -- From Baby Videos to Educational Software -- Affects Your Young Child," urged parents to establish limits on use of electronic devices.

"Can they focus on a conversation, not look a screen for 30 minutes?" she asked.

Truglio noted that "researchers have proven they need adult-child interaction," in addition to the electronic helper. "Interactive doesn't mean educational," she said.

Annie Murphy Paul, author of "How the Nine Months Before Birth Shape the Rest of Our Lives," said there's no need to panic.

"Your brain is changing all the time, each time you learn something new," she said.

But Paul said she strictly controls her own offspring's access to such devices and remains concerned "about the value" for small children.

For Buckleitner, it's all a question of balance. Don't let the iPad become an electronic babysitter. But it can be "a shelf of toys. It could be a lot of things," she said. "Trust your gut."

## China's mobile phone subscriptions top a billion

BEIJING (AFP) - China said Friday it had broken the barrier of one billion mobile phone accounts at the end of February, as more people in the world's most populous country ditch fixed phones.

The number of cell phone subscriptions grew 20.7 million in January and February to reach just over one billion, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said, up from 900.4 million in April last year.

In contrast, the number of fixed line subscriptions fell by 828,000 during that period to reach 284.3 million, the figures showed.

Mobile phone use has exploded in China in recent years as handset prices and user charges have dropped, while the continual arrival of new technologies on the market has spurred sales.



Of the more than one billion accounts, a total of 144 million used 3G technology -- nearly double the figure for April 2011.

However, the figures do not indicate how many mobile phone users there are in China, as companies and individuals may have two or more subscriptions each.

China also has the world's largest web population with more than half a billion Internet users, according to official figures.



## COMICS

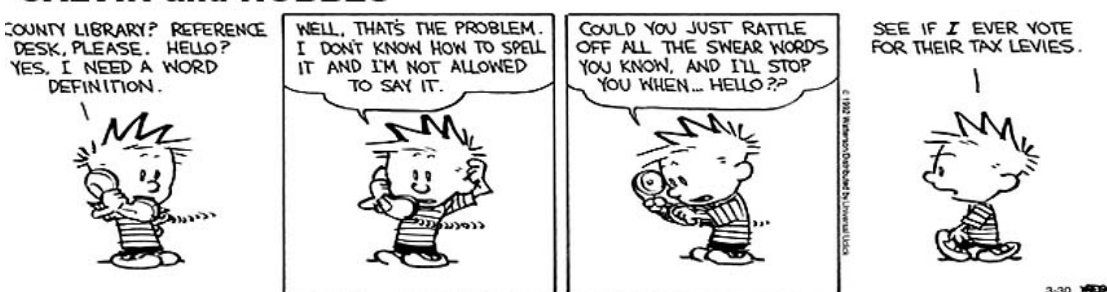
## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

1. Like Telly and Yul
5. Middle (abbr.)
8. Part of history
11. "Garfield" character
12. Like the Sahara
14. Cooking need
15. Ordered
16. Without funds
17. Hank Aaron's leading stat
18. Walk wearily
20. Fertile spot
22. Mint \_\_\_\_
25. Agree silently
26. Small appliances
27. Stars, slangily
30. Tonic's frequent partner
31. Catch a criminal
32. Dunce
34. "Rocky II," e.g.
37. Starr of the Beatles
39. High explosive (abbr.)
40. Not outer
41. Trunk
44. Yearning
46. Secreted
47. In that event (2 wds.)
49. Leaf rib
53. La Plata's locale (abbr.)
54. Brenda and Peggy
55. Word on a waffle box
56. Casual shirt

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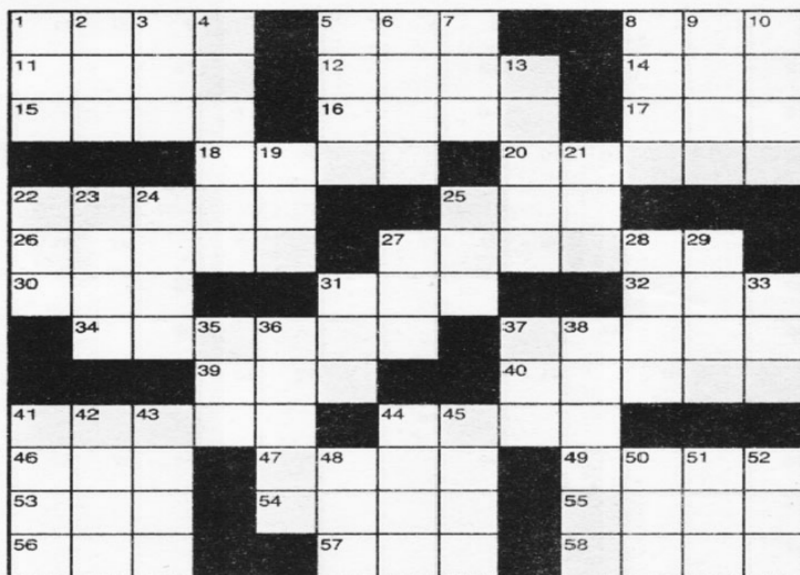
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## DOWN

1. Sassy hairdo
2. Dental gp.
3. Pan cover
4. Intensify
5. Guitar neck attachment
6. Walked upon
7. "\_\_\_\_ Rita"
8. Showery mos.
9. Vast Asian desert
10. Elevator pioneer
13. Salivate, like a St. Bernard

19. "Vinyl" (abbr.)
21. Fruity refresher
22. "The \_\_\_\_ is up!"
23. Writer Leon
24. \_\_\_\_ wolf
25. Omaha's state (abbr.)
27. \_\_\_\_ Ripken, Jr.
28. Beethoven's birthplace
29. Poultry flavoring
31. Meshed snare
33. Supporting
35. Milk measures (abbr.)

36. To which time
37. Set up
38. "\_\_\_\_ Promised You a Rose Garden" (2 wds.)
41. Talk
42. Employ
43. Take the \_\_\_\_ off
44. Accustomed (to)
45. Betsy or Diana
48. Service charge
50. Id's partner
51. "\_\_\_\_ to Pieces" (2 wds.)
52. French for "name"



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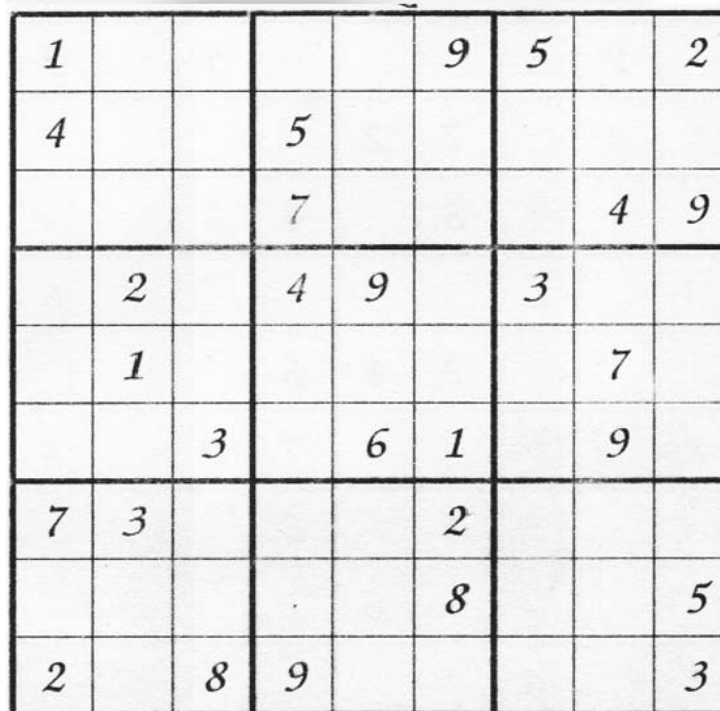
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## Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	1	9	4	7	6	8	5	2
5	2	7	8	1	6	4	9	
4	8	6	2	5	9	1	7	
8	6	4	1	9	2	7	5	
9	2	5	8	7	1	6		
1	5	7	6	4	9	2	8	
6	4	1	9	2	7	5	8	
2	9	8	1	5	2	6	4	
2	5	6	4	8	9	1		

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



## Finance

# Visa, MasterCard scramble after massive data breach



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Credit card giants Visa and MasterCard were scrambling on Friday to thwart cyber crooks who looted a massive trove of precious account data, evidently from a payment processor in New York.

Gartner analyst Avivah Litan said that industry sources revealed that numbers from more than 10 million credit card accounts were stolen in the breach, with the entry point being a New York City taxi and parking garage company.

The thieves stockpiled stolen credit card numbers for months before beginning to use them, according to the analyst.

Indications were that the culprits were part of a Central American crime gang, Litan told AFP.

"It sounds like they went into an administrative privilege account at the taxi company and stole electronic data from a central server," Litan said.

"So, if you've paid a NYC cab in the last few months with your credit or debit card, be sure to check your card statements for possible fraud."

Visa and MasterCard both said they were investigating the breach, which they stressed involved a "third party" and not their internal networks.

"Visa has provided payment card issuers with the affected account numbers so they can take steps to protect consumers through independent fraud monitoring and, if needed, reissuing cards," the company said in a statement.

Visa and MasterCard are alerting banks and credit unions across the United States to what some in the financial sector are calling a "massive" breach, computer security specialist Brian Krebs said in his Krebson Security blog.

Alerts sent to banks warned that sufficient account details were stolen to make counterfeit credit cards, according to Krebs.

People should alert card issuers to suspicious account activity, according to Visa and MasterCard.

"Law enforcement has been notified of this matter and the incident is currently the subject of an ongoing forensic review by an independent data security organization," a MasterCard spokesman told AFP.

## Eurozone boosts anti-crisis firewall to one trillion dollars

COPENHAGEN (AFP) - Eurozone ministers Friday hailed a deal to boost their firewall against the debt crisis to more than a trillion dollars but analysts were quick to pounce on "window dressing" to pad out the figures.

Under intense international pressure to combat the two-year crisis and with fresh Spanish budget woes underscoring the need not to let down their guard, finance ministers sealed an agreement aimed at reassuring financial markets.

"All together, the euro area is mobilising an overall firewall of approximately 800 billion euros, more than

\$1 trillion," said a joint statement from the 17 finance ministers of the eurozone bloc.

However, on close inspection, it turned out that some 300 billion euros of the headline figure was composed of loans already pledged to debt-racked countries, giving only 500 billion euros in untapped funds.

And ministers agreed that the maximum lending capacity

of the new combined bailout pot would be 700 billion euros, with the extra 100 billion euros cited coming from already pledged bilateral loans and a special EU fund.

Nonetheless, the head of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde, welcomed the deal and said it would "support the IMF's efforts to increase its available resources for the benefit of all our members."

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## Chavez threatens banks, firms backing opposition

VENEZUELA (AFP)-- Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has threatened to nationalize banks and private companies that support the opposition ahead of October elections.

Chavez, 57 spoke at a rally Thursday after returning from Cuba, where he had received follow-up cancer treatment after a surgery there last month to remove a malignant tumor.

His recent health woes have cast a shadow over his bid for a third presidential term, in which he will face off against unified opposition candidate Henrique Capriles, 39, in the October 7 vote.

At the rally broadcast on state TV, Chavez said he is drawing up a "list of actions" to take "if there is an attack against the constitution, the people, and institutions, or if the certain victory of the people is ignored."

For example, he said, "I

have reports of some banks that support these movements.... or some major national and international corporations that earn enough money and support the plans of the opposition," he said.

"There is nothing wrong with nationalizing major companies for violating the constitution and the national plan."

During his 13 years in power Chavez, a leftwing firebrand, has nationalized several major industries and threatened to take control of private firms.

Chavez went on to accuse the opposition of "starting to set the stage for violence," adding: "We must alert the world and ourselves."

The Venezuelan leader has repeatedly said a victory by the opposition would put the country on a path to war and violence, and has referred to Capriles as a "low-life... pig."

## Ford to invest \$1.3 bn in Mexico plant

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Ford Motor Co. said Friday it planned to invest \$1.3 billion in a plant in northern Mexico to produce the new Fusion and Lincoln MKZ models for the North American market.

Ford's president for the Americas, Mark Fields, said the money would go into creating 1,000 jobs at Ford's stamping and assembly plant in Hermosillo.

"Ford is making a significant investment in this facility and a significant commitment to the employees here while also transforming our vehicle lineup for customers throughout North America," he said.

Ford has invested \$3 billion in Mexico over the last decade, the company said, and the Hermosillo plant has produced the Fusion sedan since 2005.

## Number of evictions in Spain hit record in 2011

MADRID (AFP) - Eviction procedures in Spanish courts for unpaid mortgages and rent hit a record of 58,241 in 2011, a 21.2 percent rise over the previous year, a court oversight body said Friday.

The most affected regions were Valencia with 13,711 evictions, followed by Andalusia with 9,864 evictions and Madrid with 9,460, the General Council of Judicial Power, the body which oversees courts, said in a state-

ment. "Evictions reached a historical high in 2011," it said.

Evictions have soared in Spain since the collapse of a property bubble in 2008 that triggered the country's economic crisis.

The growing number of evictions has sparked a wave of solidarity in Spain, which is grappling with an unemployment rate of nearly 23 percent, the highest level in the industrialised world.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of 3/30/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.770	1.790	1.810
Britain	GBP	2.770	2.820	2.880
Switzerland	CHF	1.9678	1.9750	1.9830
Netherlands	EUR	2.3539	2.3754	2.3993
Sweden	SEK	0.2576	0.2648	0.2728
Denmark	DKK	0.3098	0.3170	0.3250
Norway	NOK	0.3025	0.3097	0.3177
Japan	JPY	212.56	214.50	216.66
(per 10,000)				

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer





## Stolen New York paintings surface in Germany 23 years on



In this picture provided by the German Police the painting "Untitled" by US painter Franz Kline with 3 others have turned up in Cologne, western Germany.

(AFP) - More than 23 years after they were snatched from a New York gallery, four valuable paintings have turned up in the western German city of Cologne, police said Friday.

The works valued at \$345,000 (258,000 euros) when they were stolen in July 1988 surfaced in a collection bequeathed to a woman in Germany in 2009, the Cologne police said in a statement.

"The heiress wanted to research their origin and authenticity and turned to the Art Loss Register in London and the Cologne police," it said.

The Art Loss Register, which calls itself the world's largest database of stolen art, determined that the four works were among those taken by burglars from New York's Salomon gallery.

It was not immediately clear how they ended up in Germany, police said, adding that the US Federal Bureau of Investigations had been involved in the probe.

The paintings that resurfaced included "Figuration" by Robert Motherwell, "La Bouteille bleue" by Fernand Leger, "Untitled" by Franz Kline and Jean Dubuffet's "Effigie".

The works have now been handed over to an insurance company.

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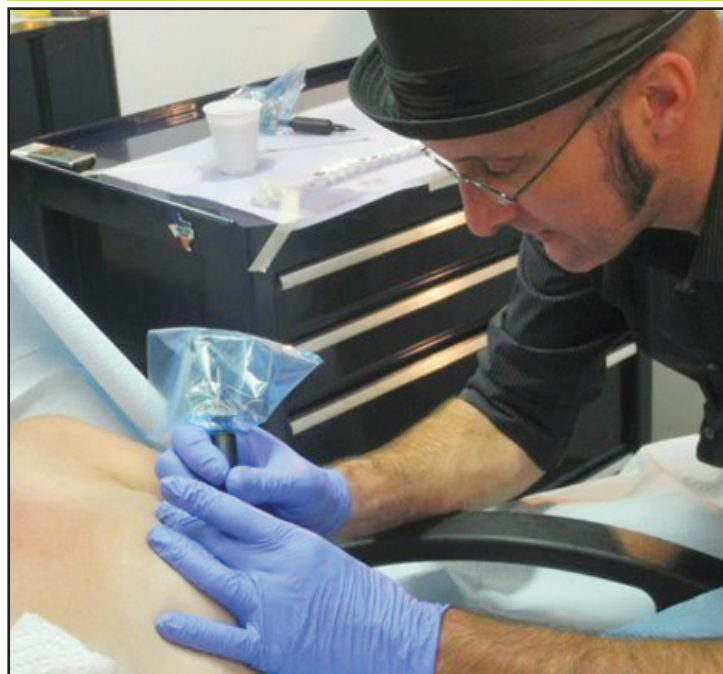
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## Tattooist gives nipples, new life, to US cancer survivors



Vincent Myers has treated around 3,000 breast cancer survivors AFP Photo

FINKSBURG (AFP) - Few tattoo artists tell their clients they could win a wet T-shirt contest. Then again, few tattoo artists are quite like Vincent "Vinnie" Myers.

In his shop in a modest strip mall in Finksburg, a half-hour drive from Baltimore, Myers specializes in tattooing nipples and areolas onto women who have undergone breast cancer surgery.

Using precisely mixed pigments, he creates a perfect 3-D illusion of the real thing -- and

in doing so, enables women who have undergone mastectomies to feel fully like women once again.

"It's far more rewarding than anything else I have ever done," said Myers, 49, who has dedicated the last decade of his 28 years as a tattoo artist concentrating on post-op cosmetic tattoos.

He has treated around 3,000 breast cancer survivors so far, including many referred to him by surgeons at Baltimore's prestigious Johns Hopkins

medical center and other hospitals around the United States.

"When it's completed and they see the final results, most women feel very emotional because they realize: 'The thing is over, I'm whole again,'" Myers said.

Myers, a Baltimore native, discovered tattooing when he was a US army medic in South Korea in the 1980s. In 2001, a friend asked him if he might tattoo some patients who had undergone breast reconstruction.

Typical of the women who have gone under the needle at Little Vinnies Tattoos is for Susan, 58, an elegant retiree with a wish "to look as normal as possible."

"I'm doing this for me. It makes you feel prettier," she told AFP the other day as Myers pulled on a pair of blue latex gloves and prepared to work is magic.

-- 'There's a huge mental impact' --

"Any complications? Any allergies?" the tattooist asked before carefully mixing pigments in tiny pots and joking that Susan "might win" a T-shirt contest once the tattoo is done.

"The perfect reconstructed breast doesn't look like a breast without a nipple," said

Myers, whose fee ranges from \$350 to \$1,000 depending on the complexity of the task at hand.

"You get out of the shower in the morning, you look out at yourself in the mirror, and you have no nipples -- there's a huge mental impact," he said. "It's critical that the visual appearance is as close to normal as possible."

On average, it takes Myers two hours to complete his work, during which he will determine the color and size of the areolas of each patient.

"They will be some shade of color on the areola itself and a darker shade on the nipples because that is normally darker," he said.

When he is not in Fricksburg, Myers is often on the road, treating women in New York, Philadelphia, Charleston

in South Carolina and the Saint Charles surgical hospital in New Orleans.

Myers reckoned that only a handful of his fellow tattoo artists do what he does, and in order to meet a growing demand, he has already trained two others in the secrets of his unique craft.

Some 200,000 cases of breast cancer are detected in the United States every year. Half of them require breast reconstruction, even if surgeons using the latest techniques try to retain as much of the nipple area as possible.

It helps, Myers said, that his tattoo shop is just that -- a tattoo shop, not a medical clinic. Patients feel more relaxed "and you can have a little more fun here than you can at the hospital."

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## Cool Casino where those in the know go to play!



The great perks of gaming at Cool Casino in the Palm Beach has created a dedicated clientele; ask them what they like about the cozy casino, and they don't know where to start! The free slot tournaments every Sunday? Major pay-offs in their weekly Blackjack tournaments every Tuesday and Friday? Ladies' night every Wednesday with entertainment from great local bands? Or perhaps just the terrific benefits of being "One Cool Member" which earns players bonus points towards additional activities, free dinners, day passes at the Riu Resort, credit for play, or best of all: hard, cool cash! The casino opens daily at 10:00 AM and on Saturdays and Sundays, all are greeted with an early

morning "Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.



Cool Casino is a great place to learn to understand such table games as Craps and Roulette, as they offer free instructions and minimums for beginners with which anyone can have fun and feel very comfortable. High-stakes tables and a major weekly blackjack tournament will

keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!



## Global, wired and 3D: all change in TV world



CANNES (AFP) - Beamed onto iPads and smartphones, with new channels going live daily and 3D TV hoping for an Olympic boost, television is morphing into a radically new beast, experts said ahead of a top industry show.

"We're in a time of massive transformation for the entire industry," Laurine Garaude, head of the TV division at Reed MIDEM, which is organising the four-day Spring MIPTV industry show on the French Riviera from Sunday, told AFP.

As TV shifts from the home set onto computers and mobile devices, there has been an upsurge in the number of channels worldwide.

In Europe alone, 375 new television channels launched last year, with 8,900 now available across the region according to the latest European Union data.

The trend is a global one, with online, on-demand channels launching in Europe, the United States or Australia, but also in Latin America, India or China, Content Digital executive Jonathan Ford told MIPTV News.

And with a large Chinese delegation due to attend this show, participants will be watching closely to see which companies and sectors it selects as partners.

As booming channel numbers set the scene for a battle to capture the biggest audiences, MIPTV is expecting brisk business from newcomers wanting programming to fill up virgin schedules.

The race to win viewers shifted up a gear at the end of 2011 when the world's largest video-sharing platform, YouTube, unveiled plans to

launch 100 online channels of original programming this year.

Google-owned YouTube will launch the new channels in partnership with leading TV production companies and film studios including Lionsgate and FremantleMedia.

A two-day programme at MIPTV aims to enable commissioners, producers and finance specialists to set-up the international co-productions that are needed to fund lavish high-end drama works.

Budding 3DTV technology will also be in the spotlight as households gradually invest in the technology, and more and more 3D channels become available.

According to data released by the EU's European Audiovisual Observatory, there are some 20 3D channels broadcasting or testing in Europe.

China's state broadcaster has also just test-launched a 3D television channel, in a bid to drive people to upgrade to 3D-capable sets.

High hopes are resting on the experimental 3DTV coverage of the 2012 Olympic Games in London this summer, which could convince viewers to embrace the technology.

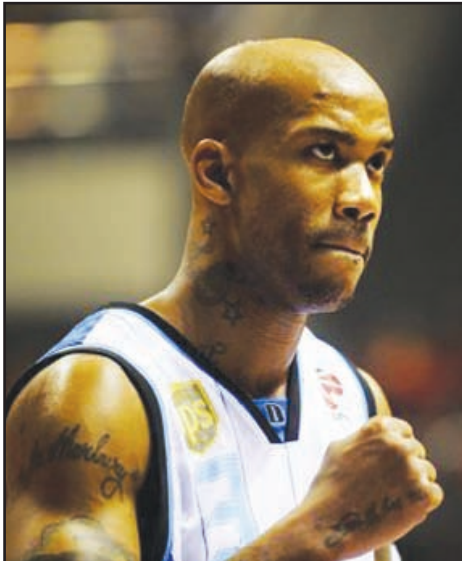
The BBC will offer 3D broadcasts of the extravagant Olympic opening and closing ceremonies, as well as nightly highlights from the games, and a single live sporting event, the men's 100 metre finals.

Some 11,500 participants from 100 countries are expected to attend MIPTV, on par with last year's turnout. New countries participating include Cameroon, Bangladesh, Peru, Zambia and the Seychelles.



## SPORTS

## Basketball: Marbury leads Beijing to CBA title



Former NBA superstar Stephon Marbury, seen here in 2011

BEIJING (AFP) - Former NBA superstar Stephon Marbury led the Beijing Ducks to their first-ever Chinese championship Friday, scoring 41 points as the host team knocked off title holders Guangdong Tigers 124-121.

Fellow American Randolph Morris sealed the victory for Beijing, hitting two free throws with 21 seconds left on the clock, while a three pointer

by Guangdong's Aaron Brooks was wide of the mark as time expired.

"This has been incredible, it has been an incredible experience," a tearful Marbury said after winning his first major league championship.

Marbury, the former New York Knick, led a balanced Beijing attack in a physical contest played before a capacity crowd of 18,000 in the capital, with six Ducks scoring in double figures.

In their first-ever Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) championship, the Ducks beat southerners Guangdong, winners of the last four straight league titles, five games to one in the best-of-seven series.

Marbury, who has led Beijing all season with his scoring and play-making, ended up with 41 points on the night for the winners, while Zhai Xiaochuan scored 22, Zhu Yanxi

contributed 16 and Morris notched 14.

With the game tied at 121-121, Marbury fouled out with one minute and twenty seconds left, silencing the capacity crowd and leaving everyone wondering if the team could hang on for the win and avoid a game six in Guangdong.

Guangdong was led by Brooks with 33 points and another American, James Singleton, with 29.

Marbury, a two-time NBA All-Star, has reinvented himself since arriving in China in 2009 following a tumultuous 13-year NBA career that saw supreme talent on the court but often poor behaviour off it and various spats with coaches and team-mates.

But in China, the multi-millionaire has led by example, taking his gritty, muscular game and infecting a roster of young Beijing players with fight and tenacity.

He has also embraced the culture while working to sell his "Starbury" brand of shoes and sports apparel with a "love is love" marketing campaign.

## NBA: Lin to miss a third game with sore knee

NEW YORK (AFP) - New York Knicks point guard Jeremy Lin will miss a third game with a sore left knee, the team confirmed Friday before their NBA game against the Hawks in Atlanta.

Knicks coach Mike Woodson confirmed that Lin, who traveled with the team to Atlanta, was not yet ready to return to competition.

The 23-year-old Lin, an NBA unknown who shot to

prominence in February as he energized a flagging Knicks team, said last week that he'd felt pain in his knee after the Knicks played a stretch of four games in five nights.

Teammate Jared Jeffries, who has missed five games with a sore right knee, said in an interview with ESPN New York Radio on Friday that Lin has been rehabbing his knee in a swimming pool and shot baskets for the first time

on Friday.

"I think he's getting better, he's improving," Jeffries said.

Reserve forward Jeffries believes that his and Lin's injuries are the result of "wear and tear" made more intense by the packed schedule of the lockout-shortened season.

"You get a small injury and it seems to keep going and keep compounding itself," Jeffries said.



Finish pilot Mikko Hirvonen and co-pilot Jarmo Lehtinen compete in their Citroen DS 3 WRC during the second stage of the 2012 Portugal Rally near Sao Bras de Alportel. Hirvonen inherited the lead in the Rally of Portugal after Ford duo Jari-Matti Latvala and Petter Solberg spun off in treacherous conditions.

AFP Photo



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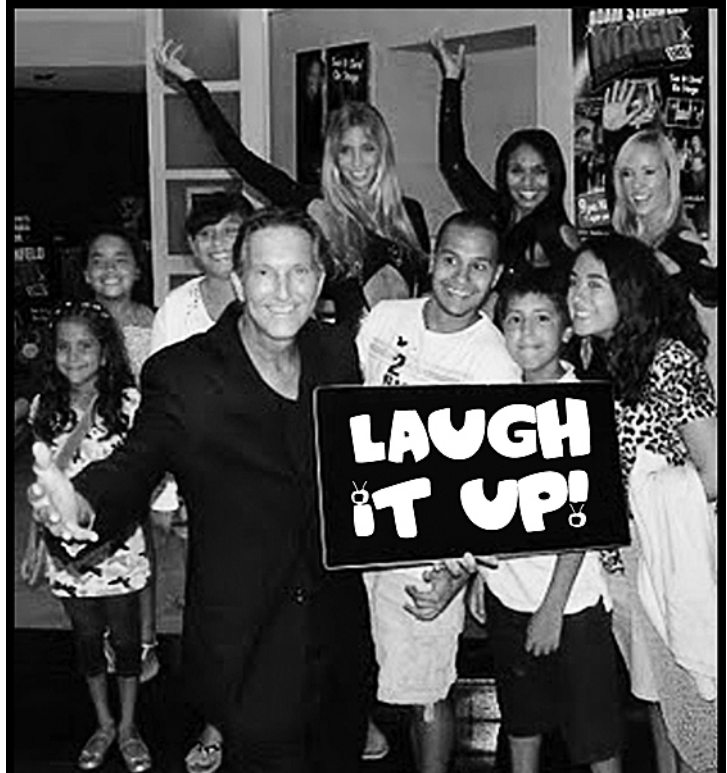
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## Baseball: Rangers confirm Darvish to start v Mariners

**SURPRISE (AFP)** - The Texas Rangers confirmed their starting pitching rotation to open Major League Baseball's regular season, with prized Japanese import Yu Darvish slated to take on Ichiro Suzuki and the Mariners on April 9.

The Rangers opted not to fiddle with the rotation they have used during Spring Training. Colby Lewis will make the first Opening Day start of his major league career on April 6 against the Chicago White Sox at

Rangers Ballpark in Arlington.

He'll be followed by left-handers Derek Holland and Matt Harrison, and righties Darvish and Neftali Feliz.

Manager Ron Washington confirmed the decisions on Thursday.

"Each one of them has done well," Washington said. "The only thing I'm looking for is that each time they take the ball they keep us in the ballgame."

"Keep us in the ballgame, and my guys will find a way to put us in a position to win it. That's what it's about."

Darvish, a two-time Japan League Most Valuable Player with the Nippon Ham Fighters, was acquired by the Rangers prior to this season for a total of \$107.7 million - \$56 million for his six-year deal and the rest just for the right to negotiate with him.

Now he'll make his first major league start against Seattle and Suzuki, the most successful Japanese player in US major league history.

"Wherever and whenever I'm told to pitch, I'll just do my best," Darvish said. "That is all I am thinking about right now."

Washington said he expected Darvish to rise to the occasion, and not get caught up in the hype of the match-up against Suzuki.

"Ichiro is one of the better players in the American League, and Darvish is trying to establish himself as one of the best pitchers," Washington said.

"It should be a good match-up, but it's not Darvish vs. Ichiro. It's Darvish vs. the Seattle Mariners."

## NBA: Heat end skid with win over Mavericks



**Norris Cole and Shane Battier of the Miami Heat dive for a loose .**

**MIAMI (AFP)** - The Miami Heat shrugged off back-to-back road defeats on Thursday to post a decisive 106-85 victory against the Dallas Mavericks,

the team that beat them in last season's NBA championship series.

The Heat, with their star trio of LeBron James, Dwyane

Wade and Chris Bosh leading a balanced attack, surged to a 13-point lead in the third quarter, adding another victory over the Mavericks to the win they posted in Dallas when the lockout-shortened season opened on Christmas Day.

Not only was it a satisfying win over the team that denied them the NBA crown last season, it helped erase the taste of road defeats to the Oklahoma City Thunder and Indian Pacers.

Those losses marked Miami's first back-to-back double-digit losses since James, Wade and Bosh became Heat teammates in July of 2010.

Bosh and James scored 19 each and Wade added 16.

Dirk Nowitzki kept the Mavericks in it with 16 points in the first half on 8-of-10 shooting. The Mavericks' German star finished with 25, his output dropping off in the second half as the Mavericks struggled to score.

Dallas missed 14 of their first 16 shot attempts of the fourth quarter. The Heat ended the game on a 16-2 scoring run to reach a somewhat deceptively lopsided score.

"They stepped up their pressure at both ends of the floor," Nowitzki said. "In the first half, everything came a little too easy for us. You got to give them credit. They had us going both ways all night. D-Wade and LeBron were getting theirs. And everybody else was getting theirs, too. Defensively, we just weren't sharp enough."

Mavs coach Rick Carlisle added: "We had trouble getting the ball in the basket."

"That was one thing that hurt us. Second-chance points hurt us. And then they hit a flurry of transition points at an inopportune time for us. Tough loss."



**NICE (AFP)** - Germans Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy won a tight battle for gold to claim their fourth pairs crown at the world figure skating championships here on Friday. A stunning performance to Black Swan by Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov saw the Russians win the free skate but they had to settle for a second straight world silver after placing eighth in Wednesday's short programme. Skating to the music from the Pina soundtrack, the Germans grabbed the title by just 0.11 points after errors in their four-and-a-half minute routine. Young Japanese pair Narumi Takahashi and Mervin Tran held their third spot from the short program to give Japan a first international pairs medal.

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## Murray in Miami final as ailing Rafa withdraws



Andy Murray, pictured on March 28

MIAMI (AFP) - Rafael Nadal's abrupt injury withdrawal from the Miami Masters on Friday sent Andy Murray into the final, giving the surprised Scot a second walkover victory of the tournament.

"To be honest, it hasn't really happened to me that often where even one guy has done that," said Murray, who had also reached the last 16 without hitting a shot when Canadian Milos Raonic pulled out of their third-round clash with a right ankle injury.

"To get two in one week is strange," Murray said.

Murray will face either world number one Novak Djokovic or 21st-seeded Juan Monaco of Argentina in the final.

Murray, the 2009 Miami champion, had rallied to beat Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the quarter-finals on Wednesday.

Chasing a second title of 2012, to go with the trophy he captured in Brisbane, Murray said he wasn't sure if the extra rest afforded him by Nadal's sore left knee would be good or bad for him come the final.

"You don't really know the answer to that," Murray said. "You never know how you're going to play on the day."

"Obviously, you don't play a match for three or four days, it's different than if you played one one or two days ago."

"But then the positives are that you're going to be fresh and physically feeling fine."

"I don't really know how I'm going to feel for the final, but I'll definitely be fresh."

Djokovic and Monaco, meanwhile, will both be playing for the second day in a row, after booking their semi-final clash on Thursday.

Djokovic, the defending champion, defeated fifth-seeded David Ferrer 6-2, 7-6 (7/1) and admitted he was pleased to finish off the tenacious Spaniard in two sets after twice going up a break in the second frame only to have Ferrer push him to the tie-breaker.

Monaco, who celebrated his 28th birthday by ousting eighth-seeded American Mardy Fish 6-1, 6-3, will try to follow that up by reaching his first Masters level final.

He has one title to his credit already this season, at Vina del Mar. However, Djokovic has won all four of their career meetings.

The Serbian, vying to reach his first final since defending the Australian Open title in January, sounded an ominously confident note after his quarter-final victory.

Despite his semi-final exits in Dubai and Indian Wells, Djokovic said his game was improving with every match.

"I feel that I am playing better and better as the tournament goes on," he said.

## Golf: Mickelson seizes share of lead in Houston

HOUSTON (AFP) - Defending champion Phil Mickelson, resuming his rain-disrupted first round, seized a share of the lead Friday at the Houston Open with a seven-under par 65.

Mickelson joined two-time major champion Angel Cabrera of Argentina and Sweden's Carl Pettersson atop the leaderboard after one round, with the second round getting underway immediately after.

Both Cabrera and Pettersson completed their rounds on Thursday morning before afternoon thunderstorms halted play.

Mickelson, playing in the featured group with Masters champion Charl Schwartzel and Fred Couples, had completed just three holes when play was suspended on Thursday evening.

More than an inch of rain in a matter of hours had left puddles on several Redstone fairways, making the course unplayable.

Despite Thursday's deluge, Mickelson said the grounds staff had the course in good shape.

"The greens were immaculate," he said. "If you get it in the surface, you'd feel like you'd make the putts."

Even so, muddy conditions in the fairways prompted officials to allow players to lift, clean and place balls in the fairway for the second round.

The rule wasn't in effect for completion of the first round, and Mickelson said mud on his ball caused a wayward approach at the par-five 13th, where he took his only bogey of the first round.

"There's not much you can do about that," he said.



Phil Mickelson hits his tee shot on the ninth hole during the completion of the weather-delayed first round of the Shell Houston open at Redstone Golf Club in Humble, Texas.

On Friday morning, Mickelson birdied both par fives on the front nine, one-putted eight straight greens and drained a 10-foot birdie putt at 12.

After his bogey at 13, Mickelson bounced back with a birdie at the par-five 15th and holed out from off the green at 16.

He was slated to begin his second round an hour after completing the first.

Far from being daunted by the prospect of a long, day, Mickelson was looking forward to it.

"I like being able to come out and play a lot of holes in one day," he said. "If you start playing well, you get a good rhythm, you can make a lot of birdies, especially out here."

Mickelson, Pettersson and Cabrera were one stroke in front of England's Greg Owen and Americans Jeff Maggert, Ricky Barnes and John Huh, who all shot 66 in the first round.

Three-time major champion Ernie Els, who must win to book a spot in next week's Masters, completed a 70 on Friday morning.

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